

Greening Your Fireplace



In these cooler months as we gather around the hearth, consider using more sustainable and environmentally friendly fire logs instead of natural wood. Here's why. Wood smoke accounts for 80% of residential air pollution. Particulate matter is the prime culprit here, contributing heavily to lung disease and exacerbating chronic heart conditions.

In 2007 an in-depth EPA study showed conclusively that artificial fire log brands (Northland and Pine Mountain from Conros, Easy Time and Xtra-Time Firelog from Duraflame, and Java-Log from Robustion Technologies) produced 80% less particulate matter than natural cured oak firewood. Amazing but true! What's more, these alternative logs, composed of substances such as compressed sawdust, food fiber, nutshells, or coffee grounds, are more energy efficient and produce 45% more BTU's per pound than oak firewood.

Fire log tips:

- Purchase only those with non-petroleum based wax binders. (Most now are bound with vegetable based waxes.)
- Do not burn artificial logs in wood stoves ? they are meant for open hearth fireplaces.
- Never add a log to an existing wood fire or burn more than one at a time.
- Don't break up a log during its burn cycle because it can flare up.
- Go green, stay warm, and have a terrific holiday season!

- [Sustainability](#)

Source URL (retrieved on 2010-12-04 20:14): <http://westlinnoregon.gov/sustainability/greening-your-fireplace>